

**Testimony of John F. Jones  
Supervisor of Ira Township, St. Clair County  
Before the  
House Natural Resources, Great Lakes, Land Use and Environment  
Committee  
September 29, 2005**

Good Morning: I'm John Jones, Supervisor of Ira Township in St. Clair County, and Co-Chairman of the Macomb/St. Clair Inter-County Watershed Management Advisory Group. I want to thank you for this opportunity to address the committee on House Bills 5148 and 5149. If adopted, these two bills would permit St. Clair County to effectively address septage management as well as landfill capacity management.

Macomb and St. Clair Counties have been collaborating on watershed management implementation projects that cross the jurisdictional boundaries over the last five years. We work together to leverage economies of scale and to bring to bear technical skills of staff from multiple agencies to reduce the respective costs of planning and implementation to both counties.

Local governments are responsible for the health, safety and welfare of their residents. The budgetary stress that governments are facing today demand that issues and challenges be prioritized.

Today more then ever, governments must be creative in how they address their challenges. By partnering with other jurisdictions on projects that address multiple challenges, local governments will be able to meet the needs of our residents in a cost effective manner.

In my own township, we are challenged with meeting the demands related to growth and infrastructure service on a daily basis. Recognizing that on-site septic are a critical part of an efficient infrastructure system, we need to assure we have properly designed and sited locations for management of septage.

Mr. Chairman I concur with the points raised by SEMCOG and support the passage of House Bills 5148 and 5149.

Thank you.